COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Residents of the Columbia Basin are invited to comment on the newly revised Columbia Basin Management Plan.

The Columbia Basin Management Plan (the Plan) sets out the corporation's objectives, priorities, and programs and directs the work of CBT.

The Columbia Basin Management Plan was created by the Board of Directors with the assistance of its Advisory Committee from input by residents of the region through symposia in 1997. The Plan was approved by the Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors on July 19, 1997.

Item 4.4 of the Plan sets the requirement for a general review of the Plan to be carried out within a three to five year period of writing the original document. The Plan requires the CBT Board to seek input to any proposed amendments from residents of the region.

During 2003 the Plan was revised and CBT is taking the revised Plan to the people of the Basin for their input through a series of Open Houses and Community Meetings in June of 2004.

The revised Plan has been reviewed by CBT's Sector Steering Committees. Changes suggested by the Sector steering Committees were reviewed, and those appropriate have been incorporated into the Plan. Changes suggested by Sector Committees are highlighted.

Directors must approve any amendments at a public meeting. The Board intends to review the input from Basin residents and present the completed Plan at its September 2004 Board meeting during the public session.

Residents unable to attend a community meeting are encouraged to send their comments to CBT regarding the proposed changes. Comments must be received by July 10, 2004.

If you have any questions about CBT, the Columbia Basin Management Plan, or the Community Meetings, please call CBT at 1-250-365-6633.

Columbia Basin Management Plan

The Columbia Basin Trust was created by the Columbia Basin Trust Act in 1995 to benefit the region most adversely affected by the Columbia River Treaty (the Treaty).

The Treaty, ratified by the United States and Canada in 1964, led to the construction of three storage dams in the Basin (Duncan, Keenleyside and Mica Dams) and one in Montana (Libby Dam). The purpose of these dams was flood control and power production in both countries. Most of the benefits of the Treaty were enjoyed by areas outside the Basin while most of the negative effects were, and still are, felt by the Basin and its residents.

There was a lack of prior consultation with the people of the Basin, including the 2,300 residents who were displaced by flooding of their communities and farms. The people of the Basin came together in the early 1990s to press the Province for recognition of the injustice of this situation. Local governments in the Basin coordinated their efforts at the regional district and tribal council level under the Columbia River Treaty Committee (the Committee), which first met in 1992.

Flooding -----Power----Treaty

The Committee, in partnership with elected officials from the region, negotiated with the Province. They had two objectives:

- The creation of a trust governed by a board of Basin residents.
- The allocation to the region of funds representing a fair share of the on-going downstream benefits earned under the Treaty, to be managed by the trust.

On both counts negotiations where successful and the Columbia Basin Trust was formed. The Columbia Basin Trust received a $295 million endowment by the Province.

- $250 million is committed to finance power project construction.
- $45 million is reinvested through short-term cash investments, business loans, real estate ownership, and venture capital projects.
- $2 million per year from 1996 to 2012 for operations.

The Province also committed to transfer $250 million to the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), the Columbia Basin Trust's Joint Venture Partner in power projects in the Basin. The Columbia Basin Trust receives 50 per cent of the net profits, which it uses to carry out its mission to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency, for present and future generations.

Purpose of the Plan

Under the Columbia Basin Trust Act, the Columbia Basin Trust was required to prepare a long-term plan setting out the organization's objectives, priorities and programs.

The Columbia Basin Trust extensively consulted the people of the Basin about what they wanted to do with the benefits. Out of that process a five-year Columbia Basin Management Plan was written in 1997 by the Columbia Basin Trust's Board of Directors with the assistance of an advisory committee.

Continuing public consultation ensures the Management Plan supports, and is supported by, the people of the Basin. This process of public input includes public meetings and symposiums, analysis of information, and technical consultation.

The Columbia Basin Management Plan describes the Columbia Basin Trust's mission, mandate, vision, values, guiding principles and strategic priorities. In addition, the Columbia Basin Trust annually produces an Operational Plan, which outlines the goals and objectives that support the Management Plan.

Vision

The Columbia River Basin is a place where social, environmental, and economic well-being is fostered.

Collaborative relationships and partnerships are established.
Communities work together in a spirit of mutual support and respect for each other's differences. Residents identify with a Basin culture and feel a sense of belonging to a Basin community. Residents are involved in community decision-making.

A healthy environment is the foundation ~~basis~~ for all social and economic activities in the Columbia River Basin.
Residents are committed to long-term and enduring stewardship of the Basin's natural resources.

The economy is diverse, resilient and energized.
Communities are responsive to both the needs of the present and the future. Community enhancement initiatives are widely supported and residents share responsibility for their implementation. Practical and innovative investments in the Basin serve to increase the range of options for present and future generations.

Mission

The Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

Mandate

To manage the Columbia Basin Trust's assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region.

Core Values

Inclusiveness

Include the people of the Basin in planning, ~~and~~ decision-making and project implementation.

Collaboration

Work with the public and other agencies and organizations.

Respect

Respect the history, culture and diversity of the people and communities within the Basin.

Responsibility

The Columbia Basin Trust will openly and explicitly balance maximizing benefits and minimizing negative impacts by taking into account the social, cultural, environmental, economic, and sustainability values of Basin residents in all of its decision making.

Guiding Principles

The Columbia Basin Trust will:

1. Make decisions that are consistent with and accountable to the Columbia Basin Trust Management Plan.
2. Ensure its initiatives do not relieve any level of government from its obligations to the Basin.
3. Remain flexible in its approach to working with Basin communities, encouraging on-going learning, adaptation and innovation based on the diverse and changing needs of the Basin.
4. Ensure that its practices and initiatives are fair and accessible, recognizing that equity will not result from treating every community or everyone the same.
5. Provide leadership to promote positive economic, social, cultural, ~~and~~ environmental change by acting as a facilitator, catalyst and convener, where appropriate.
6. Support communities to build capacity (identify, build and use their own assets and strengths) in order to realize their goals and address their challenges.
7. Focus on the whole Basin and respect the diversity within it.
8. Ensure returns on investments are used to provide benefits within the Basin.

Strategic Priorities

1. Ensure the Columbia Basin Trust becomes financially self-sufficient.
2. Increase the capacity of Basin communities to identify and meet their own social, economic and environmental needs.

3. Encourage maintenance of healthy ecosystems in a naturally functioning state and improve the functioning of those that have been altered or degraded.
4. Ensure the long-term water quality and quantity issues in the region are addressed according to Basin residents' values and views.

Public Involvement and Accountability

The Columbia Basin Management Plan outlines the mission, vision, mandate, core values, guiding principles and strategic priorities of the organization. It is the foundation of the organization and therefore guides the setting of goals and objectives.

Public involvement is fundamental to Columbia Basin Trust accountability. The Columbia Basin Management Plan was created with significant consultation with Basin residents.

Accountability to Basin residents through the Columbia Basin Management Plan:

The Columbia Basin Trust will undertake a series of community meetings across the Basin or a Basin wide symposium every five years.

Accountability to the Goals and Objectives of the Columbia Basin Trust Management Plan:

The Columbia Basin Trust will ensure that we hear from and report back to Basin residents annually through resident surveys, web based forums, and focus groups.

In addition, Columbia Basin Trust's monitoring and evaluation policy directs the organization to collect and use information to make changes to the goals and/or objectives to ensure consistency with the Columbia Basin Management Plan. With regards to accountability, the monitoring and evaluation policy states that the Columbia Basin Trust will:

- Clearly state in public documents ~~writing~~ what it intends to achieve prior to undertaking an activity.
- Collect the minimum ~~required minimum~~ amount of required, accurate, objective and evidence-based information (qualitative and quantitative) needed to evaluate results and make that information publicly available.
- Make recommendations for modification of activities based on the outcomes of the evaluation.